

One of the things I am most proud to have motivated and enacted was the establishment of the Long Island Breast Cancer Study, a comprehensive effort to investigate whether environmental factors are responsible for breast cancer. The historic investigation began in 1993, and was coordinated by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. When the study was released late last year, I was disappointed to find the study could not identify specific environmental factors from among the three compounds studied as a cause for breast cancer. Many of the other compounds remain to be ruled out; more funding and research are necessary. However, the lessons learned proved very important. Many of the results provided clues for future research. We must build on this information, we must try until we succeed because the alternative is much more costly.

We need to work together to turn "A-wareness" into "A-cure."

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, this week Puerto Rico is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Arecibo Observatory, home of the largest and most sensitive radio telescope in the world. For this occasion, more than 100 scientists from around the world will gather November 1 through the 4th for a series of workshops, including one on the most recent astronomical advances of the giant telescope. For Puerto Rico, there is another reason to celebrate: for the first time since the creation of the observatory in 1963, a Puerto Rican is at its helm. Sixto Gonzalez, who has served as assistant director of special and atmospheric sciences of the observatory since 2001, was named Director of the observatory October 1.

The Arecibo Observatory is part of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC), a national research center operated by Cornell University under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF is an independent federal agency whose aim is to promote scientific and engineering progress in the United States. NAIC also provides additional support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

As the site of the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, the Observatory is recognized as one of the most important national centers for research in radio astronomy, planetary radar and terrestrial aeronomy. Use of the Arecibo Observatory is available on an equal, competitive basis to all scientists from throughout the world. Observing time is granted on the basis of the most promising research as ascertained by a panel of independent referees who review the proposals sent to the Observatory by interested scientists. Every year about 200 scientists visit the Observatory facilities to pursue their research project, and numerous students perform observations that lead to their master and doctoral dissertations.

The Arecibo Observatory has its origins as an idea of Professor William E. Gordon, then of Cornell University, who was interested in the study of the ionosphere. Gordon's research during the 1950's led him to the idea of radar back-scatter studies of the ionosphere. Professor Gordon's persistence culminated in the construction of the Arecibo Observatory, which began in the summer of 1960 and three years later the Arecibo Ionospheric Observatory (AIO) was in operation under the direction of Gordon. The formal opening ceremony took place on November 1, 1963.

On October 1, 1969 the National Science Foundation assumed ownership of the facility from the Department of Defense and the Observatory was made a national research center. On September 1971 the AIO became the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC).

The Arecibo Observatory employs about 140 persons in support of the operation. A scientific staff of about 16 divides their time between scientific research and assistance to visiting scientists. Engineers, computer experts, and technicians design and build new instrumentation and keep it in operation.

The Arecibo Observatory is a Puerto Rican landmark. Hundreds of tourists visit it every year and it has been a desired site for recent filming of many movies as well. As this notable landmark appears frequently in films and TV, it is a source of pride for all Puerto Ricans, both as the home of the Arecibo Observatory and as an emblem of the contributions to science from Puerto Rico in general.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the people of Puerto Rico, the Arecibo Observatory and its scientists on its 40-year anniversary. Also, congratulations to Director Sixto Gonzalez for his great job and recent ascension to the leadership of the Arecibo Observatory.

HONORING THE WORK OF SISTER LECLARE BERES

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Sister Leclaire Beres from La Crosse, Wisconsin, in recognition of her retirement. Sister Leclaire has worked tirelessly for many years as a nurse and a nun, aiming to provide all people with access to healthcare.

Sister Leclaire grew up in Elroy, Wisconsin. Living on a farm, surrounded by her large family, she learned early the importance of hard work and compassion to others. In the early 90s, Sister Leclaire saw the medical needs of refugee immigrants and called upon the four area hospitals to sponsor a free clinic. The Indochinese Screening Clinic later became the St. Clare Health Mission. As the director of the St. Clare Health Mission, Sister Leclaire has been a leader in providing health services to the poor in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. In addition, she has worked in Guam and Jamaica as well as with organizations such as Place of Grace and the Salvation Army.

Moreover, after she retires this fall, her dedication to the poor will live on as she plans to volunteer at the St. Clare Health Mission

where she has served as its only director for ten years. I am pleased that her efforts and giving spirit have earned her multiple honors, including the Pope John XXIII Award from Viterbo College, the YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women in the Medical Field, and the 2002 La Crosse Tribune Person of the Year.

Aside from her amazing gifts in working with persons who are poor and sick, Sister Leclaire has impressive organizational talents. She would regularly coordinate the 200 plus medical professionals and community volunteers who came each Tuesday and Thursday evening to serve at the St. Clare Health Mission. In this feat, Sister Leclaire was able to bring together a community to address the needs of its neighbors and sought a solution to the limited access to healthcare that many Americans face.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow Members of Congress, I ask that you join me in honoring the dedication and service of Sister Leclaire Beres as she retires. She is a role model of service, compassion, and generosity, and we could all learn from her dedication.

Thus, I would like to leave you with the words of Sister Leclaire's successor, Sister Dawn Kutt. "Sister Leclaire's compassion for the poor and underserved dwells deep within her heart's desire. Her service to the poor is undertaken with joy and tender love as her gentle presence reflects God's love for each of them. She certainly brings the richness out of the poorest of God's poor."

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, the week of October 20–25 has been designated as World Population Awareness Week with the theme of "Water: Our Most Precious Natural Resource." Over the next 20 years the world's population of 6.3 billion is projected to increase to nearly 9 billion before leveling off.

As currently, these 6.3 billion people are dependent on 1 percent of all the water on earth. A recent study revealed that 58 areas of the United States—from Florida and Georgia to western Texas to northern California and southern Oregon, as well as most of heartland U.S.A.—are water stressed. Acting on the global consensus that water scarcity must be a top development priority, the Population Institute has decided to dedicate the 19th World Population Awareness Week to the issue of water and I applaud their efforts.

More than 80 nations, 165 organizations, 127 mayors, and 22 governors, including Governor John Baldacci of Maine, have proclaimed the week of October 20–25 as World Population Awareness Week with the theme "Water: Our Most Precious Natural Resource." I call that proclamation to my colleagues' attention in hopes of promoting the importance of an adequate and safe water supply for future generations.